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Energy Department Awards Enable Tribes To Assess Renewable Energy Resources

GOLDEN, COLO. – Secretary of Energy Spencer Abraham announced today that the Department of Energy (DOE) Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy is making \$900,000 available to seven Native American tribes to assess the potential for developing renewable energy resources on tribal lands.

The tribes will study a wide variety of renewable energy technologies. Along with the more mature solar, wind and biomass technologies, the Quinault Indian Nation will study wave energy as a possible source of electric power. Members of the Flathead Nation will investigate using pumped water storage to provide on-demand electricity generation.

“Renewable energy offers unique opportunities for Native American tribes to provide reliable, affordable electricity for their members while encouraging economic development and creating jobs,” Secretary Abraham said. “Adequate energy supplies are critical to tribal self-sufficiency while helping our nation enhance its energy security.”

The funded projects were competitively selected in fiscal year 2003 along with seven other tribal renewable energy projects, but DOE only had sufficient funds last year to make awards to seven tribes. Those awards were announced in August 2003. See the Tribal Energy website at www.eere.energy.gov/tribalenergy for information on those projects and other tribes across Indian Country who are exploring renewable energy options to gain energy sufficiency.

Projects receiving fiscal year 2004 funding include:

- **Kenaitze Indian Tribe, IRA (Kenai, Alaska)** – The Kenaitze Tribe will study solar and wind energy resources for powering tribal operations, future tribal housing, and possible sale to local energy providers.
- **Three Affiliated Tribes of the Fort Berthold Reservation (New Town, N. D.)** – The Three Affiliated Tribes (Mandan, Hidatsa, and Arikara Nation) of the Fort Berthold Reservation will study the feasibility of using wind energy to power the tribes’ proposed Clean Fuels Refinery, provide power for the reservation and create jobs.
- **Ak-Chin Indian Community (Maricopa, Ariz.)** – The Ak-Chin will study the economic sustainability of a facility that would turn poultry manure and other biomass materials into electricity and other products for use on the reservation or for sale outside the reservation.

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- **Quinault Indian Nation (Taholah, Wash.)** – The Quinault Nation will assess their wind, biomass, solar and wave energy resources to determine their development potential.
- **S & K Holding Company, Inc. (Flathead Reservation, Ronan, Mont.)** – The Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes of the Flathead Nation will study the feasibility of a commercial wind energy facility, as well as the potential for solar and biomass power development. Included in the study will be a look at using pumped water storage to increase the value of these intermittent resources.
- **Yavapai-Apache Nation (Camp Verde, Ariz.)** – The Yavapai-Apache are blessed with abundant forest resources and will study the economic feasibility of using forest thinnings and other biomass materials to produce electricity for the reservation, or for export. The tribe will also examine whether such a project would be consistent with their cultural and social values.
- **Mesa Grande Band of Mission Indians (Santa Ysabel, Calif.)** – The Mesa Grande Band of Mission Indians are faced with inadequate electricity resources and rising energy prices that force many tribal members living in reservation housing to use wood-burning stoves, kerosene space heaters and gasoline-powered generators to meet their energy needs. The tribe will study the feasibility of meeting some of those needs with photovoltaics (solar electric), solar hot water and hydronic space heating.

Technology	Applicant Name	Project Title	Proposed DOE Funds*	Cost Share
Solar/Wind	Kenaitze Indian Tribe, IRA	Renewable Energy Resources Feasibility Study	\$40,354	\$3,824
Wind	Three Affiliated Tribes of the Fort Berthoud Reservation	Three Affiliated Tribes Renewable Energy Feasibility Study	\$221,952	\$47,250
Biomass	Ak-Chin Indian Community	Ak-Chin Biomass Feasibility Study	\$97,036	\$0
Wind, Biomass, Solar, Wave	Quinault Indian Nation	Quinault Indian Nation Renewable Energy Feasibility Study	\$150,000	\$82,805
Wind	S & K Holding Company, Inc. (Flathead Reservation)	Flathead Renewable Energy Feasibility Study	\$202,788	\$47,250
Biomass	Yavapai-Apache Nation	Yavapai-Apache Forest Biomass Feasibility Study	\$126,897	\$0
Solar, Solar Hot Water, Hydronics	Mesa Grande Band of Mission Indians	Renewable Energy Feasibility Study for Mesa Grande Reservation	\$50,000	\$0
Total			\$889,027	\$181,129

* Subject to negotiation